

Serial Number: 09/805,234

REMARKS

Claims 10-12, 14-16 and 32 have been canceled.

Examination of the remaining claims is requested taking into account the additional prior art submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this paper.

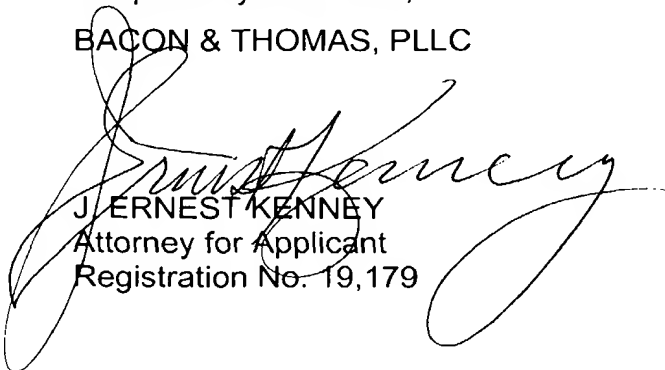
It is to be noted that none of the additional prior art affects the patentability of the claims currently presented in this application. With regard to claim 1, the claim defines a floor panel including coupling elements arranged to enable an interlocking of the coupling elements between panels in a direction perpendicular to a plane including the panels, as well as in a direction perpendicular to the respective edges and parallel to the plane including the panels. This type of floor covering utilizing a decorative cut-away portion covering layer on an area of a cut away portion that masks the exposed edge area as well as the panel decorative layer, and further wherein the decorative cut away portion covering layer is a separate layer from the panel decorative layer is not shown or suggested in any of the prior art of record in this application.

Formal sheets of drawings are submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings were made other than to clear up the informalities mentioned in the Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review form PTO-948 that accompanied the Notice of Allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims presently in the application are patentable and that passage of the application to issue is warranted.

Respectfully submitted,
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